

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-44. (Cancelled).

1 45. (New) A machine-implemented method, comprising the steps of:
2 a service requestor using an IP address to access a service provided by a first node
3 within a cluster;
4 in response to said first node becoming unavailable, automatically configuring a
5 second node of the cluster to respond to requests associated with said IP
6 address;
7 after said first node becomes unavailable, the service requestor using said IP
8 address to send a message to said cluster related to said service; and
9 in response to said message, said second node of the cluster sending a response
10 that indicates an error condition.

1 46. (New) The method of Claim 45, further comprising the steps of:
2 upon receiving said response, the service requestor identifying a second IP address
3 to access said service; and
4 the service requestor using said second IP address to send a second message to
5 said cluster related to said service.

1 47. (New) The method of Claim 45, further comprising the step of:
2 storing, at the first node, information identifying one or more nodes of the cluster
3 as being standby nodes, wherein each of the one or more standby nodes
4 may be instructed to provide the service if the first node becomes
5 unavailable.

1 48. (New) The method of Claim 45, further comprising the step of:
2 in response to said first node becoming unavailable, determining if said first node

3 is configured to allow the service to be provided by another node of the
4 cluster.

1 49. (New) The method of Claim 48, further comprising the step of:
2 in response to determining said first node is configured to allow the service to be
3 provided by another node of the cluster, determining a standby node of the
4 cluster to perform the service; and
5 instructing the standby node to perform the service.

1 50. (New) The method of Claim 45, further comprising the steps of:
2 in response to said first node becoming unavailable, instructing a standby node of
3 the cluster to perform the service;
4 determining if the plurality of services provided by the standby node may be
5 provided by another node of the cluster; and
6 if the plurality of services provided by the standby node may not be provided by
7 another node of the cluster, configuring the standby node to disallow the
8 plurality of services to be provided by another node of the cluster.

1 51. (New) The method of Claim 50, further comprising the step of:
2 in response to configuring the standby node to disallow the plurality of services to
3 be provided by another node of the cluster, issuing an alert to a user.

1 52. (New) The method of Claim 45, wherein said first node comprises a monitor
2 process, and wherein said monitor process is configured to detect if said first node
3 becoming unavailable.

1 53. (New) A machine-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of
2 instructions, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by
3 one or more processors causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of,
4 comprising the steps of:
5 a service requestor using an IP address to access a service provided by a first node
6 within a cluster;

7 in response to said first node becoming unavailable, automatically configuring a
8 second node of the cluster to respond to requests associated with said IP
9 address;
10 after said first node becomes unavailable, the service requestor using said IP
11 address to send a message to said cluster related to said service; and
12 in response to said message, said second node of the cluster sending a response
13 that indicates an error condition.

1 54. (New) The machine-readable medium of Claim 53, wherein execution of the one
2 or more sequences of instructions by the one or more processors causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the steps of:
4 upon receiving said response, the service requestor identifying a second IP address
5 to access said service; and
6 the service requestor using said second IP address to send a second message to
7 said cluster related to said service.

1 55. (New) The machine-readable medium of Claim 53, wherein execution of the one
2 or more sequences of instructions by the one or more processors causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the step of:
4 storing, at the first node, information identifying one or more nodes of the cluster
5 as being standby nodes, wherein each of the one or more standby nodes
6 may be instructed to provide the service if the first node becomes
7 unavailable.

1 56. (New) The machine-readable medium of Claim 53, wherein execution of the one
2 or more sequences of instructions by the one or more processors causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the step of:
4 in response to said first node becoming unavailable, determining if said first node
5 is configured to allow the service to be provided by another node of the
6 cluster.

1 57. (New) The machine-readable medium of Claim 56, wherein execution of the one
2 or more sequences of instructions by the one or more processors causes the one or

3 more processors to perform the step of:
4 in response to determining said first node is configured to allow the service to be
5 provided by another node of the cluster, determining a standby node of the
6 cluster to perform the service; and
7 instructing the standby node to perform the service.

1 58. (New) The machine-readable medium of Claim 53, wherein execution of the one
2 or more sequences of instructions by the one or more processors causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the steps of:
4 in response to said first node becoming unavailable, instructing a standby node of
5 the cluster to perform the service;
6 determining if the plurality of services provided by the standby node may be
7 provided by another node of the cluster; and
8 if the plurality of services provided by the standby node may not be provided by
9 another node of the cluster, configuring the standby node to disallow the
10 plurality of services to be provided by another node of the cluster.

1 59. (New) The machine-readable medium of Claim 58, wherein execution of the one
2 or more sequences of instructions by the one or more processors causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the step of:
4 in response to configuring the standby node to disallow the plurality of services to
5 be provided by another node of the cluster, issuing an alert to a user.

1 60. (New) The machine-readable medium of Claim 53, wherein said first node
2 comprises a monitor process, and wherein said monitor process is configured to
3 detect if said first node becoming unavailable.